[27th August 1955

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Government consider special treatment being accorded to poor, and dry districts like Chingleput, in the matter of matching contribution to be met by the local public in respect of local development works? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think, Sir, Government could make any distinction between one district and another. The question of poverty is there in all other districts also."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know, Sir, why Malabar is favoured with such a large allotment? Is that due to the incessant agitation by the representatives of Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" These funds have been distributed according to the population and that is how Malabar got a big sum. In regard to other districts also, the sums were allotted on population basis."

Extension of new railway lines in the Chingleput, North and South Arcot and Salem districts.

* 370 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have recommended to the Government of India any proposals for extension of new railway lines in the Central districts of Chingleput, North and South Arcot and Salem; and

(*b*) if so, at what stage they are at present?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) This Government have furnished a list of railway projects to the Government of India in connection with the formulation of the Railway Board's Second Five Year Plan. The following proposals covering the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot and Salem have been included in the above list :—

(1) Neyveli-Vriddhachalam-Salem (Broad-Gauge) Line.

(2) Salem-Bangalore Line.

(3) Chinnasalem-Chingleput Line.

(4) Salem-Tiruchirappalli Line.

(5) Conjeeveram-Vellore Line.

" (*b*) It is observed from the Budget speech of the Minister for Transport and Railways, Government of India and the Explanatory Memorandum thereon, that in the list of surveys proposed to be undertaken during 1955–56, the traffic and engineering surveys in respect of Salem-Bangalore Line and the Katpadi or Vellore to Kancheepuram Line have been included and that the scheme for extension of electrification from Tambaram to Villupuram has been approved."